

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

February 2013 Pima Regions



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

January Outreach Activities

First Focus on Kids/ Early Childhood Awareness Subcommittee (Champion) Meetings

- January 9: City of Tucson Sentinel Building

City of Tucson Sustainability Planning (Arts, Culture and Education)

- January 10: Tucson Parks and Recreation Administration Office

Southeast Regional Area Site Visit

- January 17th: Ajo Preschool

Distribution of Educational Reinforcement Items

- January 17th: Fran Driver for South Pima Nurse Family Partnership participants

Lions Club (statewide representation)

- January 28th: Mesa, AZ

Champion Feedback Meetings

- January 28th: Monica Brinkerhoff
- January 30th: Kerry Milligan
- January 31st: Barbara Kiernan

UA Presents Children's Day

- January 27th: Centennial Hall

Story Collecting

- January 30th: Aggie Hart (for Tohono O'odham Nation region)



What can you do this month ?

Check out the Festival of Books March 9th and 10th at the University of Arizona. First Things First will have a booth in the Children's Section and is partnering with Grantees to help connect families to information and services.



Beautiful artwork created by the students in Ms. Minerva's preschool classroom in Ajo, AZ

Success starts before kindergarten: The job of getting children ready for school starts the day they are born!

You can predict reading and comprehension levels in 3rd and 4th grade by the general knowledge, attention, and vocabulary in the early years.

Early childhood education reduces the chance a child will need special education or be held back at school by 40%.

BENCHMARKS REACHED

2 Presentations

4 Networking Meetings

1 Event

1 Site Visit

"I know this one, really, give me another second!" Dr. Katherine Hammel asks her team mates during a trivia game, "Didn't we *just* learn not to 'just choose answer C?'" she says as she laughs.

Friday, February 8th was Greater Tucson Leadership's Education Day. The 30 year old non-profit, non-partisan, leadership organization is dedicated to providing leadership education, community development, and civic engagement for the overall care and commitment to the Tucson community. Each year the organization coordinates nine issue days for the class participants which include topics such as economic development, health care, border issues, and education. The purpose of the education issue day is to introduce and celebrate the schools and organizations who are dedicated to creating an educated population that is prepared to enter the workforce or pursue higher education. Class members learn about different types of schools, the impact of quality of education on the economy, how education is funded, and are introduced to organizations and programs that enrich the learning environment in our community.

After graduating from the program in 2009 I was asked to serve on the Alumni Board. I co-chair both Economic Development Day and Education Day which means I help plan and coordinate the subject matter and presenters for those issue days.

Since becoming a co-chair for Education Day, I have introduced Early Childhood Education into the day's curriculum with site visits to preschools, and by providing panelists and speakers who are resources on the topic. This year, Education Day included a presentation to the class by Chairman of the First Things First State Board, Steve Lynn. Chairman Lynn's section was very well received and reviewed by the class, and the topic of Early Childhood Education was brought up repeatedly throughout the remainder of the day. The day ended with a celebratory gathering off site for happy hour where GTL class members competed for prizes using their knowledge of education related information and statistics in a trivia game called Geeks That Drink. An entire round was dedicated to Early Childhood Education and all of the teams did quite well remembering the facts introduced to them earlier in the day.

The students ended the week and kicked off the weekend inspired by what they had learned and eager to share the information.



Jeanette Maré, founder of Ben's Bells, leads the Greater Tucson Leadership Education Day version of Geeks That Drink. Students showed off their newfound knowledge in the Early Childhood Development round!